Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We write in the interest of ensuring access to treatment for COVID-19. As our communities continue to grapple with the effects of this pandemic and experts warn of the potential for a second wave of cases in the near future, it is imperative that costs are not prohibitive for any available treatments. We therefore urge you to prioritize proposals eliminating cost-sharing for these services in negotiations with the Senate.

Health care costs continue to place a significant burden on American families. Even insured individuals often struggle to pay for necessary care, and this problem has been exacerbated by job losses and economic dislocation stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, if we are to effectively mitigate both the health effects and economic fallout of this crisis, it is critical that cost does not prevent low and middle-income Americans, especially those at high risk, from accessing treatment.

We appreciate your leadership in including language prohibiting cost-sharing for treatment in Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and private insurance in the Heroes Act. As you know, access to care is critical to supporting the health of not only of the individual receiving care, but of our communities as a whole. Again, after the deaths of more than 100,000 people across the country, we strongly believe that Congress has a responsibility to remove financial barriers to receiving care and must take action to ensure that every American can mitigate the health effects of COVID-19.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Chris Pappas Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson Member of Congress Lisa Blunt Rochester Member of Congress

Sean Casten Member of Congress

André Carson Member of Congress David N. Cicilline Member of Congress

TJ Cox Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz Member of Congress Eleanor Holmes Norton Member of Congress

Ted Deutch Member of Congress

Dina Titus Member of Congress

Lauren Underwood Member of Congress

Tim Ryan Member of Congress

Katie Porter Member of Congress